

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 CEA-02 CIEP-02 COME-00

EB-11 IO-14 OMB-01 TRSE-00 FEA-02 NEA-11 INT-08 L-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SAM-01 USIE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /130 R

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TO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 030791

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:ENRG, EI

SUBJECT:TALK WITH IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD

1. EUR/NE OFFICE DIRECTOR AND DESK OFFICER SAW IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER GARRET FITZGERALD OFF AT AIRPORT FEBRUARY 13 AT CONCLUSION OF WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE AND TOOK OCCASION TO DISCUSS VARIETY OF TOPICS WITH HIM. ON CONFERENCE
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FITZGERALD SAID IT HAD NOT GONE WELL. THE RESULTS WORKED

AGAINST EC UNITY AND EVEN THOUGH, HE SAID, FRENCH HAD BEEN "MORE OBSTINATE" THAN USUAL, DIVISIONS WITHIN EC WERE BAD FOR IRELAND. HE CLARIFIED THIS LATER BY SAYING THAT WITHOUT UNITY, EC COULD HARDLY AGREE ON REGIONAL FUND WHICH WAS ESSENTIAL TO IRELAND. FRENCH SUPPORT FOR EC AGRICULTURAL POLICIES WAS ALSO VERY MUCH IN IRISH INTEREST. THUS, IRELAND HAD TRIED TO AVOID OPEN BREAK WITH FRENCH AT CONFERENCE. (FYI: DURING CONFERENCE IRISH PUSHED VERY HARD TO USE OCED IN PLACE OF FOLLOW-UP MACHINERY. THIS, OF COURSE, SUPPORTED FRENCH ATTEMPT TO VETO ANY NEW CONFERENCE RELATED MACHINERY. IN GENERAL, IRISH WERE NOT HELPFUL, ALTHOUGH IN THE END THEY ACCEPTED COMMUNIQUE.)

2. FITZGERALD SAID EC DECLARATION GAVE THEM ENDLESS TROUBLE.
2. FITZGERALD SAID EC DECLARATION GAVE THEM ENDLESS TROUBLE. AMERICANS, HE SAID, TRIED TO USE DECLARATIONS TO PAPER OVER SERIOUS DIFFERENCES. THIS COULD NOT BE DONE SINCE THE DIFFERENCES HERE WERE FUNDAMENTAL. MOREOVER, HE JOKED, WE HAD

SERIOUS LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES BECAUSE IRISH DID NOT UNDERSTAND AMERICAN WORD "PARTNERSHIP". HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT IT MEANT. AND THE FRENCH HAD NO WORD FOR IT.

3. FITZGERALD SAID HE PLANNED TO RETURN IN JUNE FOR SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES.

4. EXTENDED CONFERENCE SESSIONS AND TIGHT SCHEDULE PRECLUDED SEPARATE BILATERAL TALK BETWEEN SECRETARY AND FITZGERALD.

5. FYI: FITZGERALD TOOK SOME BUFFETING FROM OTHER FOREIGN MINISTERS DURING FINAL CONFERENCE SESSION, BUT HE WAS IN HIGH SPIRITS FEW HOURS LATER DURING TALK WITH DEPT OFFS AT AIRPORT. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, PERSONAL OPINION, COMMUNITY RELATIONS, ECONOMIC COOPERATION, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE030791
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NE STEPHEN P. DAWKINS;MT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740231/aaaabddz.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 APR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <31 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALK WITH IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD -
TAGS: ENRG, EI, US, EEC, (FITZGERALD, GARRETT)
To: DUBLIN
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005